

Draft External Customer Announcement

NEW ORLEANS – In order to improve efficiency and better serve the needs of the public, the staff of Eighth Coast Guard District will be reorganizing its internal structure on Jan. 15, 2006 to better support the newly established Sectors within the district.

Realigning the Coast Guard field structure to unify operational communities is not a new idea. The establishment of Sectors began in 2004 and is scheduled to be complete in 2006. Sectors Commands integrate traditional Coast Guard program-based organizational structures contained in existing Groups and Marine Safety Offices into a single command. These new command structures focus on the two major processes performed by the Coast Guard; to execute prevention and compliance operations and response operations. These consolidated commands have proven very successful.

The attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 brought sweeping changes to the operational environment, which reinforce the importance of a unified command. The Eighth Coast Guard District is now formalizing a command and control structure that is built to improve operational effectiveness in this new environment.

The reorganized district will be made up of the following divisions: Resource, Plans and Policy, Response, Prevention and Western Rivers, resulting in better coordination of Coast Guard missions.

The transition will be seamless and unnoticeable to anyone not involved, but the realignment of command structures is designed to streamline and unify operations and promote the rapid sharing of information and intelligence.

The new divisions, branches and their responsibilities, along with a phone list so that customers can continue to contact the appropriate Coast Guard offices can be found at <http://www.uscg.mil/d8/reorganization>.